

TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. Selectmen present were Wes Moore and James McIlroy. Others present were Treasurer Don Doane, Amy Sununu and Alex Parker of the Celebration Committee, Jed Rumford, Piers Lloyd-Owens, and Brian Hart of the Rockingham Land Trust.

Amy and Alex presented their budget for the Memorial Day Celebration. They explained that they are over budget because they would like to rent a tent, table, and chairs this year with the set-up and tear-down included. They also have to pay for a band this year. Quite a few of the other items for the celebration have been donated by individuals or businesses. Amy and Alex asked for the Selectmen's okay for the budget as the money spent on the Senior Luncheon was less than budgeted and would make up the difference for the Memorial Day Celebration. This was agreeable with the Selectmen.

Alex told the Selectmen that a flag previously flown on Old Ironsides was donated in honor of Newfields' Veterans.

Wes will be at the Celebration with the Fire Department. James is happy to speak at the Celebration if Janet does not want to. As Janet is the Chairman of the Board, James and Wes feel she should be the first person asked to speak for the Board. Amy will e-mail Janet and James with a list of items to be spoken about.

The field where the tents, etc. will be set up has not been mowed. It is believed that the extremely wet weather has prevented this. Alex will look into this and make sure the grass is cut.

There will be lots of activities for the children this year including an Animal Show and Balloon Animals. The proper Certificates of Insurance have been provided to the Town.

Don Doane came in to discuss the Bond Application. Wes made a motion to approve and authorize for signature a \$1,300,000. Bond Loan Agreement with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank with regard to the purchase of the Piscassic Greenway. James seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor and James signed all of the appropriate documents.

Jed Rumford came in to give the Selectmen an update on the furnace problems at the Town Office. Jed stated that the lack of heat upstairs this past winter was due to the fact that the blower motor to the furnace was installed backwards. It has now been installed correctly. Also, the filters and supports were missing from the system. New supports were made and the filters have been reinstalled.

Last Friday the water heater in the upstairs bathroom stopped functioning and leaked a tankful of water. Donovan Heating and Air Conditioning happened to come back to the Town Office to work on the furnace on Friday. When mention was made of the problem with the hot water tank, he replaced it the same day. His fast and courteous service is much appreciated by the Town.

Jed is trying to get Steve Proulx of Epping to do the regular maintenance on the furnace. He will let us know if Steve can do this work for the Town.

Jed also brought to the attention of the Board other problems with the Town Hall which he feels are serious and need attention. The area around the cupola is leaking causing paint to peel off the ceiling and water to drip on the floor. The gutters need to be cleaned twice yearly, the bricks need to be re-pointed, the windowsills need to be repaired/replaced, the light on the flagpole is shining down to the ground rather than on the flag. Jed suggested that the Adeline Paul Fund could be used to make some of these repairs.

Jed's other concerns were the lack of cleaning the swales on Oaklands Road (he feels this is causing the shoulders to fail prematurely) and the lack of an ordinance prohibiting snow importation.

Jed mentioned that Lucy Bell should have been approached and asked if it would be acceptable to consolidate 3 monuments into 1 monument. He feels the 3 monuments are scattered throughout the area and one location would be better.

Jed is concerned with the cedar trees at the graveyard. They should be removed before they fall over and hurt someone or damage the gravestones.

Jed is trying to get donations to replace the curtain on the stage in the Town Hall. The curtain currently in place was donated to the Town in his father's memory.

James and Wes will make arrangements to look at the Town Hall roof. They will either climb a ladder from the outside or try to gain access from inside the Town Hall.

Piers Lloyd Owen spoke to the Selectmen about his concerns with the pine trees abutting his property. Piers feels all of the pine trees should be removed. He said one tree is totally dead and the others are dropping sap everywhere - causing fungus on the side of his barn. In his opinion the trees are unattractive. He also would like the Town to remove the fence abutting him as it is ready to fall down

James and Wes went out to look at the trees and fence. They determined there is no immediate threat, there are no funds in the budget at this time for tree removal,

and decided that a tree expert needs to come out to look at the trees and render a professional opinion. The Selectmen asked Nancy to make arrangements with Brian Knipstein (the Road Agent) for a tree expert to look at the trees.

Brian Hart from the Rockingham Land Trust came to the meeting to give an update to the Selectmen on the Cole Property purchase. (Prior to the meeting, Brian spoke with Janet Smith, Selectman and with Alison Watts of the Conservation Commission.) The buyer is still lined up for the purchase of the house and two acres. RLT will be asking the Planning Board to approve this subdivision so that the sale may go through.

The Trustee of the Cole property is concerned that once the house and two acres have been divided from the whole parcel, he will be unable to subdivide the balance of the property if the sale of the rest of the land is not completed by the Rockingham Land Trust. The Trustee has asked for a non-refundable payment of \$300,000. to ease his concern.

Rockingham Land Trust will pay \$225,000. and is asking the Town to provide the remaining \$75,000. This would come from the Conservation Commission which has already committed \$130,000. to this project. RLT has guaranteed the Town will be refunded the \$75,000. if the sale does not go through.

Wes and James agreed with the proposed agreement with RLT. Brian will have a formal agreement drafted by the end of the week and get it back to the Town for final review and signatures.

Dan and Karen Labrie sent a letter to the Selectmen regarding the water issue during last week's storm. Wes and James are waiting to hear back from Brian Knipstein and Reuben Hull who are looking into the problem. No decision will be made tonight, but the Labries are welcome to attend any Selectmen's Meeting.

Larry Arend called Wes Moore last week on or about May 15th regarding the Library Non-Compliance issue with the auditors. Wes told Larry to schedule an appointment to meet with the Selectmen. Larry feels the Library Trustees do not report to the Selectmen. Wes reiterated that Larry needs to attend a Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

As all attempts to reach the Library Trustees have been to no avail, the Selectmen agreed not to sign any further checks payable to the Newfields Public Library until this issue is resolved. James and Wes asked Nancy to e-mail the Library Trustees to advise them of the Board of Selectmen's decision. This decision does not affect the payroll for the Library employees which will continue to be paid.

David Dennehy asked about the mowing at the Town Landing at the area marked for additional parking. The Selectmen asked Nancy to contact Scott Moulton and request that the mowing be done before the Town's Celebration on May 27th.

The Selectmen asked Nancy to contact Reuben Hull and Brian Knipstein to see if they can attend the next Selectmen's Meeting on May 30th.

James made a motion to remove the Halls Mill Road walk through from the Open Items on the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Wes and the motion carried with all in favor.

Nancy was then asked to add the Halls Mill Road Hammerhead to the Open Items.

Checks were signed.

One Abatement was signed and one Abatement was put on hold until next week pending further investigation. A Property Tax Levy was signed and a Yield Tax Assessment was signed. Three Land Use Change Tax forms were signed.

The Reimbursement letter with regard to the Trust for Public Lands Agreement was signed and sent to Denise Mullane, Esquire and Wolfe Tone.

The Newfields Road Race was discussed. The issue of insurance came up last year as well as now. It was determined that because the race is not sponsored by the Newfields Public Library, but by the Friends of the Newfields Library and the Newfields Youth Athletic Association, the Town's insurance does not cover the event. The Race Coordinator will be sent a letter listing the requirements that have to be met in order to hold the race. These include, but are not limited to, Liability Insurance Coverage, all vendors must have Hawkers' and Peddlers' Licenses, and a Police Detail must be at the event.

The correspondence and invoice from Lane Law Offices was reviewed. It was noted that there appears to be an overcharge on one line item. Nancy will check with Lane Law Offices and have any necessary correction made.

The Selectmen's Minutes of May 16th were not approved due to the lack of a quorum. Wes did not attend the last meeting and could not vote on the minutes and Janet did not attend tonight's meeting.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm. James seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer